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NEWS RELEASE

April 17, 1997

FORUM ADDRESSES AFFIRMATIVE ACTION VS. 'COLORBLIND' PUBLIC POLICY

MISSOULA --

The history, recent policies and U.S. Supreme Court decisions on Affirmative Action will be the focus of two public events at The University of Montana-Missoula School of Law next week.

Jamin Raskin, professor of law at the Washington College of Law at American University in Washington D.C., will be at UM discussing Affirmative Action April 23-24.

Raskin will be welcomed by UM President George Dennison during a reception at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Castles Center in the basement of the Law Building.

On Thursday Raskin will join a forum discussion on "Affirmative Action vs. 'Colorblind' Public Policy." Other participants in the forum are: David Aronofsky, UM legal counsel and adjunct professor of law; Ray Cross, Jeff Renz and Sally Weaver, law professors, and Michael Mayer, history professor. The forum is at 7 p.m. in the Castles Center.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Raskin is also co-director of Program on Law and Government and a Pauline Ruyle Moore Scholar at American University. His other accomplishments include serving as a member of the Clinton-Gore Transition Team, Justice Department/Civil Rights Cluster; during 1989-90 he served as general counsel to the National Rainbow Coalition and from 1987 to 1989 he was assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He earned his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School, where he served as editor of the Harvard Law Review.

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Raskin's visit is sponsored by the Edna Rankin Law Society with support from Dennison, and UM's Diversity Council, African-American Studies Program, Women's Studies Program, School of Law, Student Bar Association, Women's Law Caucus, Native American Law Student Association, and student chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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